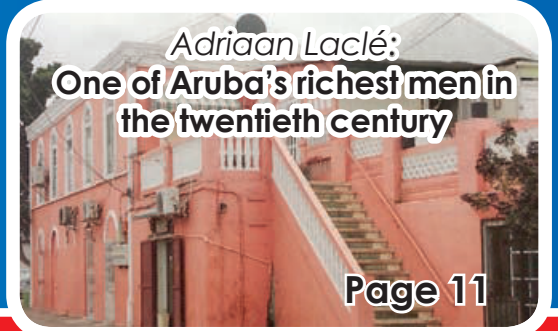




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PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY
PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

SUNDAY:

MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

MONDAY:

ANDERSON BAHAMON
SINGER
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

TUESDAY:

JEAN PAUL
SAXOPHONIST
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

WEDNESDAY:

MAILLEYN ALVARADO
VIOLINIST
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

THURSDAY:

MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

FRIDAY:

MAILLEYN ALVARADO
VIOLINIST
7:00 TO 9:00 P.M.

SATURDAY:

RICKY THOMAS
GUITAR
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Eating snow cones or snow cream can be a winter delight, if done safely

By **HOLLY RAMER**
Associated Press

CONCORD, N.H. (AP)— Take two snowballs and call me in the morning?

Dr. Sarah Crockett, who specializes in emergency and wilderness medicine, doesn't explicitly tell her patients at New Hampshire's Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center to swallow snow, but she often prescribes more time outside. If that time includes eating a handful of ice crystals straight or adding ingredients to make snow cones and other frozen treats, she's all for it.

"To stop and just be present and want to catch a snowflake on your tongue, or scoop up some fresh, white, untouched snow that's collected during something as exciting as a snowstorm, I think that there's space in our world to enjoy that," Crockett said. "And while we need to make good choices, I think these are simple things that can bring joy."

Getting outdoors to enjoy simple pleasures is unlikely to be front of mind for people in a 1,300-mile (2,100-kilometer) stretch of the United States where a massive weekend storm brought deep snow and bitter cold. Freezing rain and ice brought down power lines and tree limbs, leaving hundreds of thousands of homes without power or heating in the South, while snow upended road and air



A cone of snow cream, made by mixing sweetened condensed milk with fresh snow, is seen Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2026, in Bow, N.H.

Associated Press

travel from Arkansas to New England.

As the storm recedes, residents of lesser-affected areas might be tempted to whip up bowls of "snow cream" snow combined with milk, sugar and vanilla after seeing techniques demonstrated on TikTok. Others might want to try "sugar on snow," a taffy-like confection made by pouring hot maple syrup onto a plate of snow.

Despite its pristine appearance, snow isn't always clean enough to consume. Crockett and other experts shared advice for digging in safely while digging out.

The science of snow

Whether it's rain or snow, precipitation cleans the atmosphere, picking up pollutants as it falls, said Steven Fassnacht, a professor of snow hydrology at Colorado State University. But snowflakes pick up more impurities because they fall more slowly and have more exposed surface areas than raindrops, he said.

That means snow that falls near coal plants or factories that emit particulates into the air contains more contaminants, said Fassnacht, who was in Shinjo, Japan, last week studying the salt content of snow. He said he wouldn't have hesitated to

take a taste there because there weren't any big industrial complexes upwind.

"Snow can be eaten, but you want to think about the trajectory. Where did that snow come from?" he said.

Timing is another consideration, according to Crockett. The first wave of snow holds the most particulate matter, she said, so waiting until a storm is well underway before putting out a bowl to collect falling snow is one precaution to take.

Ground contamination is an additional factor, experts say. Avoiding yellow snow, which may be tainted by urine or tree bark, is conven-

tional wisdom, but it's also a good idea to stay away from any snow pushed by snowplows and packed with road salt, deicing chemicals and debris.

Snack versus survival

What about eating snow to survive? Crockett, who oversees the wilderness medicine program at Dartmouth College's Geisel School of Medicine, says that's a bad idea.

The energy it takes to melt snow in your mouth as you're eating it essentially counteracts the hydration benefit, plus it decreases your core body temperature and increases the risk of hypothermia. While outdoor enthusiasts who plan to spend days in the mountains often melt and boil snow to purify it for drinking, it shouldn't be viewed as an immediate hydration source, she said.

"If you are disoriented on a local hike, I would say your number one priority is to try to reach out for help in any way you can, ... not 'Can I eat enough snow?'" Crockett said.

Focus on rewards, not risks

Fassnacht, who has studied snow for more than 30 years, said he tried "snow cream" for the first time last year when some students made him some. He described it as a fun experience that got him thinking about flavors and textures, not contaminants. □

NASA delays the first Artemis moonshot with astronauts because of extreme cold at the launch site



This photo provided by NASA shows the Artemis II SLS (Space Launch System) rocket with the Orion spacecraft atop a mobile launcher at Launch Complex 39B, Thursday, Jan. 29, 2026, at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

Associated Press

By **MARCIA DUNN**
AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — NASA has delayed astronauts' upcoming trip to the moon because of near-freezing temperatures expected at the launch site.

The first Artemis moonshot with a crew is now targeted for no earlier than Feb. 8, two days later than planned.

NASA was all set to conduct a fueling test of the 322-foot (98-meter) moon rocket on Saturday, but called everything off late Thursday because of the expected cold. The critical dress rehearsal is now set for Monday, weather permitting. The change leaves NASA with only three days in February to send four astronauts around the moon and back, before slipping into

March.

"Any additional delays would result in a day for day change," NASA said in a statement Friday.

Heaters are keeping the Orion capsule warm atop the rocket, officials said, and rocket-purging systems are also being adapted to the cold.

Commander Reid Wiseman and his crew remain in quarantine in Houston and their arrival at Kennedy Space Center in Florida is uncertain.

NASA has only a handful of days any given month to launch its first lunar crew in more than half a century. Apollo 17 closed out that storied moon exploration program in 1972. □

The Westminster dog show is turning 150. Here's what has and hasn't changed over time

By JENNIFER PELTZ

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — When some Gilded Age gentleman hunters organized a New York event to compare their dogs, could they have imagined that people would someday call it the World Series of dogdom or the Super Bowl of dog shows?

Of course they couldn't. The World Series and the Super Bowl didn't exist. Nor, for that matter, did the Brooklyn Bridge or the Statue of Liberty.

But the Westminster Kennel Club's dog show did, and still does. With the 150th annual show set to start Saturday, here's a then-and-now look at the United States' most famous canine competition.

"The trappings, the window dressing, you know, changes over time. But what's at the core, what's the heart of it, which is the love of dogs ... that has been the same," says club President Donald Sturz.

The name

It comes from the Westminster Hotel, where the show's founders liked to belly up to the bar and brag about their dogs. The hotel is long gone. The moniker stuck.

The dogs

The club's "First Annual New York Bench Show of Dogs," in 1877, was no small thing. It featured about 1,200 dogs of a few dozen breeds, ranging from pugs to mastiffs. They included an English setter valued at \$5,000, at a time when an average laborer in New York made about \$1.30 a day. The Associated Press reported that "the bulldogs are represented by a number of noticeable delegates," and a family of "Japanese spaniels" was "highly amusing."

It wasn't the first U.S. dog show, but it wowed and endured. Among U.S. sporting events, only the Kentucky Derby has a longer history of being held every year.

This year's Westminster show boasts 2,500 dogs, representing as many as



Kirby, a male Papillon, and his owner John Oulton react after winning best in show at the Westminster Kennel Club 1999 Dog Show at Madison Square Garden in New York Tuesday, Feb. 9, 1999.

Associated Press

212 breeds and 10 "varieties" (subsets of breeds, such as smooth vs. wirehaired dachshunds). Some likely hadn't made it to the U.S. in 1877. Others didn't exist yet anywhere.

But many are much the same as they were in Westminster's early days, Sturz says. Some details the length of muzzles, the thickness of coats have shifted in this breed or that, and better canine nutrition may have led to "a little bit more size, or a little more bone" in some, he said.

Today, all the canines have champion rankings in a formalized sport with a complicated point system and official "standards" for judging each breed. They compete for best in show, a trophy that Westminster added in 1907. Earlier shows had no overall prize. Hundreds of other dogs now vie for separate titles in agility and other sports, which kick off this year's show on Saturday.

The vibe

When Westminster started, the dogs weren't the only ones with a pedigreed air.

"Everybody was fashionably dressed and wore an air of good breeding," The New York Times said of the 1877 show — and the paper was talking about the spectators, not the animals. Not to be outdone, some canines also were gussied up in lace collars and ribbons.

Over the years, the event drew entries from foreign royals, American tycoons and modern-day celebrities including Martha Stewart and Tim McGraw. A decades-long list of pro athletes have cheered on their animals, from baseball's Lou Gehrig and Barry Bonds to the NFL's Morgan Fox.

Westminster has carried a whiff of bygone, clubby gentility into the 21st century handlers wear suits and dresses, upper-round judges black tie and the competition is hardly casual. Many top contenders come in with hired professional handlers and a show record built on near-constant travel, with buzz built through dog-magazine ad campaigns.

Still, many people handle their own dogs and work or are retired from policing, medicine, the military, corporate jobs or other fields. Some of the animals also have jobs, including bomb-sniffing and search-and-rescue.

"It's an elite event, but it's one that we want everyone to feel that they can access and be a part of," says Sturz, a clinical psychologist and retired school district superintendent.

The venue

Westminster debuted at Gilmore's Garden, a precursor to today's Madison Square Garden. Nearly every subsequent show has been in some iteration of the building, even after part of it collapsed and killed four people, including a Westminster official, shortly before the 1880 show. Next week's semifinals and best-in-show finals, set for late Tuesday, will be held in the present-day Garden. From the start, the show has drawn thousands of spectators in person — and many more on TV since the late 1940s, with still more via

streaming.

Of course, that's not the only way Westminster has been portrayed on-screen.

The movie

Yes, we're talking about "Best in Show," director-writer-actor Christopher Guest's cult-classic 2000 mockumentary about obsessives and oddballs competing at the fictional "Mayflower" dog show in Philadelphia. Guest attended Westminster during his extensive research for the film.

Is it really like that? As with any satire: sort of. Circulate at Westminster, and you'll certainly see some wound-up people primping and presenting animals, but you'll also see some competitors cheering for each other, sharing expertise and playing with cherished pets.

Show folk had mixed feelings about the movie. But it helped expand Westminster's audience, says David Frei, who hosted the show broadcast from 1990 to 2016.

"They didn't make fun of the dogs," Frei said. "They just made fun of the people."

The protests

As Westminster's prominence grew, it became a magnet for complaints that dog breeding puts looks ahead of health. As far back as 1937, some showgoers questioned whether collies' narrow heads and long noses were healthy, according to an AP story at the time.

In recent years, animal welfare activists have sometimes infiltrated the ring or demonstrated on the sidelines. This year, PETA has put up billboards near the venues about the breathing problems of flat-faced dogs, and oxygen-tank-carrying supporters plan to demonstrate outside.

"Westminster has had countless opportunities to evolve, yet it clings to an outdated obsession with aesthetics," a PETA staff writer said in a recent op-ed distributed by the Tribune Content Agency. □

As an uncertain 2026 begins, virtual journeys back to 2016 become a trend

By **PAVAN MAHAL**
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The year is 2016. Somehow it feels carefree, driven by internet culture. Everyone is wearing over-the-top makeup. At least, that's how Maren Nævdal, 27, remembers it — and has seen it on her social feeds in recent days. For Njeri Allen, also 27, the year was defined by the artists topping the charts that year, from Beyonce to Drake to Rihanna's last music releases. She also remembers the Snapchat stories and an unforgettable summer with her loved ones. "Everything felt new, different, interesting and fun," Allen says.

Many people, particularly those in their 20s and 30s, are thinking about 2016 these days. Over the past few weeks, millions have been sharing throwback photos to that time on social media, kicking off one of the first viral trends of the year the year 2026, that is. With it have come the memes about how various factors the sepia hues over Instagram photos, the dog filters on Snapchat and the music made even 2016's worst day feel like the best of times.

Part of the look-back trend's popularity has come from the realization that 2016 was already a decade ago a time when Nævdal says she felt like people were



This combo made with photos taken in 2016, shows Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump shaking hands during a debate, a model using a Snapchat filter, Drake presenting an award to Rihanna, Kylie Jenner posing for photos, a person playing Pokemon Go!, and Beyonce performing during halftime of the NFL Super Bowl.

doing "fun, unserious things" before having to grow up. But experts point to 2016 as a year when the world was on the edge of the social, political and technological developments that make up our lives today. Those same advances such as developments under U.S. President Donald Trump and the rise of AI have increased a yearning for even the recent past, and made it easier to get there.

2016 marked a year of transition

Nostalgia is often driven by a generation coming of

age and its members realizing they miss what childhood and adolescence felt like. That's certainly true here. But some of those indulging in the online journeys through time say something more is at play as well.

It has to do with the state of the world then and now. By the end of 2016, people would be looking ahead to moments like Trump's first presidential term and repercussions of the United Kingdom leaving the EU after the Brexit referendum. A few years after that, the COVID-19 pandemic

would send most of the world into lockdown and upend life for nearly two years.

Janelle Wilson, a professor of sociology at the University of Minnesota-Duluth, says the world was "on the cusp of things, but not fully thrown into the dark days that were to come."

"The nostalgia being expressed now, for 2016, is due in large part to what has transpired since then," she says, also referencing the rise of populism and increased polarization. "For there to be nostalgia for

2016 in the present," she added, "I still think those kinds of transitions are significant."

For Nævdal, 2016 "was before a lot of the things we're dealing with now." She loved seeing "how embarrassing everyone was, not just me," in the photos people have shared.

"It felt more authentic in some ways," she says. Today, Nævdal says, "the world is going downhill."

Nina van Volkinburg, a professor of strategic fashion marketing at University of the Arts, London, says 2016 marked the beginning of "a new world order" and of "fractured trust in institutions and the establishment." She says it also represented a time of possibility and, on social media, "the maximalism of it all."

This was represented in the bohemian fashion popularized in Coachella that year, the "cut crease" makeup Nævdal loved and the dance music Allen remembers.

"People were new to platforms and online trends, so were having fun with their identity," van Volkinburg says. "There was authenticity around that."

And 2016 was also the year of the "boss babe" and the popularity of millennial pink, van Volkinburg says, indications of young people coming into adulthood in a year that felt hopeful. □

Associated Press

Actor Rose Byrne named Harvard's Hasty Pudding Woman of the Year



This image released by A24 shows Rose Byrne in a scene from "If I Had Legs I'd Kick You."

Associated Press

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) — Rose Byrne, fresh off her Golden Globe Award win and Oscar nomination for the leading role in "If I Had Legs I'd Kick You," was named as the 2026 Woman of the Year by Harvard University's Hasty Pudding Theatricals on Wednesday.

Byrne, who also has starred in "Bridesmaids," "Neighbors," "Insidious," and "Damages," will be honored Feb. 13 with a parade through the streets of Cambridge, Massachusetts. After that, she will receive her pudding pot award at a celebratory roast. She will then attend a performance of Hasty Pudding Theatricals' 177th production "Saloon Tunes."

In her review of "If I Had Legs I'd Kick You," The Associated Press' Jocelyn Noveck wrote that the film gave Byrne "a chance to display versatility and grit in surely the toughest dramatic role of her career."

Actor Michael Keaton is the 2026 Man of the Year. He will receive his pudding pot Feb. 6.

"We are thrilled to honor Rose Byrne as our Woman of the Year," Hasty Pudding Theatricals President Daisy Nussbaum said in a statement. "Hot off a Golden Globe win and an Oscar nomination, it's only right that she receives the most prestigious award of all: a pudding pot." □

London's Poems on the Underground celebrates 40 years of bringing verses to commuters

By JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Can a few lines of verse, make commuting less worse?

That, in essence, is the question asked four decades ago by Judith Chernaik, an American writer in London who wondered whether posting poems inside subway cars might enlighten, amuse and inspire riders.

The result was Poems on the Underground, a project that turns 40 this year and has been copied in cities around the world. Since 1986, many millions of London Underground passengers have seen posters adorned with poems nestled among the advertisements on their daily journeys.

More than a dozen poets whose work has featured in the project gathered Friday in where else? a subway station to celebrate the milestone and pay tribute to Chernaik, who started it all. The New York native moved to London in the 1970s and fell "absolutely in love with the city including its transport system," which she found compared favorably to her home city's subway. "I used the subway all the time in New York," she said. "It was not one of my plea-



TFL ambassadors display poems for a gathering to celebrate 40 years of 'Poems on the Underground' in London, Friday, Jan. 30, 2026.

surable activities."

Chernaik, a novelist and essayist, also reveled in London's rich literary culture and history.

"Poetry," she said, "is part of the heritage of every Londoner."

Along with two poet friends, Gerard Benson and Cecily Herbert, she hatched a plan to combine literature and transit. The subway operator was supportive, and the

first poems went up in January 1986.

"Somehow the idea of it worked, and here we are, 40 years on," said Chernaik, now 91.

The first year's poems included works by William Shakespeare, Robert Burns, W.B. Yeats, Percy Bysshe Shelley "Ozymandias," a reflection on the transience of power and William Carlos Williams' imagist poem "This is Just to Say," with its famous open-

ing:

"I have eaten
the plums
that were in
the icebox".

The choice soon expanded to include poems from around the world, by Wole Soyinka, Pablo Neruda, Derek Walcott, Anna Akhmatova and many more.

The selection is changed three times a year, and Chernaik is still on the panel

that chooses the poems, alongside poets George Szirtes and Imtiaz Dharker.

The offerings mix modern verses with centuries-old classics from "Shakespeare and Sappho to poets that are really contemporary," said Ann Gavaghan, who oversees cultural projects at Transport for London.

There have been sonnets and haikus, love poems, tragic poems, funny poems, and highly relatable-to-commuters poems such as Hungarian poet Katalin Szlukovényi's "Overcrowding."

Nick Makoha, whose poem "BOM" the airport code for Mumbai featured on the Underground in 2020, said the program drags poetry into the everyday world.

"Poetry can often be taught as if it's this thing that you need to have high intellect, but we're normal people," he said. "Poets are normal people, writing about sometimes normal things, sometimes amazing things. "Poetry belongs to the community," Makoha said. "It should be part of our daily lives, and the Underground is part of daily life. So, as it connects us to places, it also connects us to people."

Associated Press

Scientists recover the oldest wooden tools from a site in Greece

By ADITHI RAMAKRISHNAN
AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Two artifacts found at a lake shore in Greece are the oldest wooden tools to be uncovered so far and date back 430,000 years.

One is a spindly stick about 2 1/2 feet (80 centimeters) long that could have been used for digging in the mud. The other is a smaller, more mysterious handheld chunk of willow or poplar wood that may have been used to shape stone tools, according to research published Monday in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

Scientists think ancient humans wielded a whole

litany of tools made from stone, bone and wood. But it's particularly difficult to find evidence of wooden tools today because wood rots so quickly. Such tools are only preserved in specific environments like in ice, caves or underwater.

The newest tools, found in Greece's Megalopolis basin, were possibly buried quickly by sediment and preserved by a wet environment over time. For years, researchers have found other remnants at the site, including stone tools and elephant bones with cuts on them. While scientists didn't directly date the wooden tools, the site is about 430,000 years old, which provides

insight into the objects' age.

"I've always just been thrilled to be able to touch these objects," said study author Annemieke Milks with the University of Reading.

Human remains haven't been found at the site yet, so it's not yet clear who used the tools. The owners could have been Neanderthals, early human ancestors or someone else. The site in Greece probably has more gems from the past that are waiting to be found, said archaeologist Jarod Hutson with the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. But the unassuming appearance of these two

new tools makes them harder to interpret.

"It's difficult to get excited about these because they don't strike you immediately as wooden tools. And we don't know what they were used for," said Hutson, who was not involved with the new study. Other examples of ancient wooden tools include a set of spears from Germany

and 300,000-year-old Chinese digging sticks that may have been used to harvest plants.

The new find offers a rare look into the varied collection of tools used to survive a glimpse at a "little known aspect of the technology of early humans," study author Katerina Harvati with the University of Tübingen said in an email.



This undated image provided by Katerina Harvati shows a 430,000 year old wooden tool from Greece that was possibly used for digging.

Associated Press

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A language course is reviving Moroccan Jewish culture and bridging Middle East divide

By KYLE DESROSIERS-LEVINE
Religion News Service (RNS)

Growing up in Fez, Morocco, Yona Elfassi was always aware of the history of the city, which has been a center of culture, learning and spirituality since the ninth century. Home to great minds such as the 12th-century philosopher and jurist Ibn Rushd and his contemporary, the physician and codifier of Jewish law Maimonides, the city was shaped by Jewish, Arab, Amazigh, Spanish and French cultures.

These influences left a deep imprint on Elfassi, 37. "In my family there were (many) different languages Moroccan Arabic, French, Hebrew at the synagogue, and my dad also speaks Amazigh, Berber," said Elfassi.

Music, too, was a constant presence from Andalusian to Flamenco, to Moroccan classic, to Moroccan chaabi popular, to Berber music," he said. "We weren't a family of professional musicians, but we were a family that lived with music."

As a Jewish resident of Morocco, Elfassi belongs to a tiny demographic, as 99% of Jews of Moroccan heritage today live elsewhere. After major emigrations in the 20th century, only around 2,500 Jews remain in a country where they once made up 5% of the population. Today an estimated 50,000 live in France, 25,000 in Canada and 25,000 in the United States; and some 1 million Moroccan Jews make up one of Israel's largest ethnic groups.

His passions for music and language took Elfassi on a journey to Bordeaux, France, and Be'er Sheva,



In this photo provided by Ben Palhov, Yona Elfassi, left, leads a Limud Darija workshop in Jaffa, Israel, in 2023.

Israel, writing a dissertation on Jewish identity among Moroccan Jews. (He has two doctorates, one in sociology and political science from Sciences Po Bordeaux and one in anthropology and history from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.) His research into Morocco's history eventually grew into a vocation to teach Darija, the Moroccan Arabic dialect, to allow diaspora Moroccan Jews to connect with their ancestors through language, culture and stories.

"As a sociologist, I was fueled by the conviction that academic research ought to forge connections and deepen understanding" beyond the academy, Elfassi said. "These stories and human histories are at the core of why I decided to teach, and my identity has inspired me to work with Jews of Moroccan background to reconcile with their ancestral language." As the COVID-19 pandem-

ic ended, he launched Limud Darija, an educational movement and multimedia language platform. The hybrid courses mix Zoom classes with in-person gatherings, which take place in Israel. Elfassi also holds music workshops, drawing from Sephardic piyyutim-Jewish liturgical poems with Judeo-Arabic pronunciation and melodies and the music of 20th-century Moroccan pop icons such as Haja El Hamdaouia, Sliman Elmaghribi, Zohra El Fassiya and Abdelhadi Belkhatat. Limud Darija's impact has grown rapidly. "Today our community includes over 500 active members with the mission of connecting people across generations, helping participants reclaim lost voices and fostering resilience and a sense of belonging through cultural practices," Elfassi said. Through his Instagram feed and TikTok presence, many Moroccan Muslims have found Elfassi's work and

are inspired to see Moroccan Jews preserving the language of their shared home. Muslims, Elfassi said, in turn have expressed interest in learning Hebrew. "I opened an active WhatsApp group where we're teaching Hebrew to Muslim speakers of Darija," he said.

"Through this shared connection, divisions begin to fade," Elfassi said. "The Israelis the Muslim Moroccans meet are seen as Moroccans like themselves, as family. They are talking a common language, talking about what unites them, people are begun to be seen as individuals." The Muslims and Jews, he said, get the chance "to bond over music and heritage and language, not political or war-related topics, and they do not further the false 'pro-Palestine' vs 'pro-Israel' dichotomy, and instead humanize everyone as individuals, as human beings." Limud Darija students de-

scribe how the program has connected them more deeply with people in their own lives as well. "My parents talked between them in Moroccan language, but by the time I was an adult, I forgot," said Yehudit Levy, a retired schoolteacher in Ganei Tikvah, Israel, who has studied with Elfassi for three years. "Since I started to learn with Yona, everything comes up songs, music, food, poetry, all the traditional things come up. I smell Morocco when I am in the class." Noam Sibony, a Limud Darija alumnus, is a neuroscience researcher and musician living in Toronto. The 28-year-old spent nine months volunteering in Lod, an Israeli city whose population is Arab and Jewish, at a community center, working with local children and youth. Limud Darija, he said, showed him how learning the language of another culture can help build relationships that transcend regional politics and conflicts.

Habiba Boumlik, a professor of French, literature and women's and gender studies at LaGuardia University in Queens, New York, and co-founder of the New York Forum of Amazigh Film, an annual film festival celebrating the Indigenous Berber people of North Africa, sees parallels between Elfassi's work and her efforts to preserve the Tamazight language.

"I give credit to people who invest in learning language, and it is great with the new technology and variety of sources on the internet. Even if people aren't fluent, they can do so much with the language, and they will go to Morocco and connect more deeply," Boumlik said. □

Associated Press

Another treasure of Aruba's beaches: Sea Glass!

(Oranjestad)—It is hard to imagine this happening today, but years ago people dumped all kinds of refuse straight into the ocean, including old cars, and their household garbage, which of course included lots of glass. Over the next 30 years the pounding waves cleaned the beach, by breaking down everything but glass and pottery. The pounding waves washed the trash up and down, back and forth. Tons of polished, broken glass pieces were created by the pounding surf. These smoothened, colored glass particles then settled along the sea shore in millions, and that is why you can find these beautiful and colorful pieces on the north shore beaches of Aruba.

Especially on the strip on white sand between the famous Natural Bridge" and the huge red anchor close to "Grapefield" beach you will be able to find your own pieces of sea glass. The sea glass that was created is the product of a very long and interesting process.

It can take anywhere from 10 to 30 years to make sea glass.



The name for any piece of glass that finds its way to the ocean and tumbles around in the water long enough is "Sea glass."

The colorful pieces of glass are being used for decoration, handcrafts and jewelry!

Once glass makes its way into the ocean, the glass is broken up into shards and is tumbled around in the water, where sand and other rocks act like sandpaper to

smooth out its rough edges.

Sometimes as the sea glass is passed through fire, it becomes fire glass, the rarest of sea glass with certain inclusions, just like precious gems.

For years, the water beat against the different kinds of trash being dumped. Glass, household appliances and even motor parts were discarded on the beach. The waves and weather conditions wore down the overwhelming amount of gar-

bage in the water, creating millions of beautiful smooth rocks.

It's hard to believe the short-sighted mistakes we were making that could have potentially ruined these beautiful beaches. But thanks to natural processes, the ocean transformed the trash into the sea glass.

Each colored gem on the beach has its own story.

The ruby red glass stones

are typically from old car tail-lights.

Then, the sapphire rocks are the remnants of broken apothecary bottles. The most common and the easiest to find are the brown, green and clear glass.

If you like to see the sea glass for yourself, and be in awe of the power of nature, rent a car or jeep and go explore our deserted beaches on the north side of the island. Make it a fun family day!

Even if we didn't mean to pollute the Beaches how we did, it is inspiring to see just how the earth can correct our mistakes.

Funny, how trash can change into treasures!

Everybody knows that you are not allowed to take local shells home, but the people working at the airport have no problem you taking sea glass home. A few of those pieces make great souvenirs. You can place them in a wine glass or large bottle for decoration and every time you look at it a smile will light up your face thinking back of your unforgettable Aruba vacation! □

Planning on snorkeling? Get to know our "Dorado"

(Oranjestad)—If you're ever planning on snorkeling during your vacation on Aruba, you may spot fish that you can't recognize. One of these may be the "Dorado", a common fish that swims all year long in the waters of Aruba. Here's some information about the beloved Dorado.

Dorado has many different names it can be referred to. Dral, Dorao, Drals, Drado, are some of them in Papiamentu. In English, it is also called Mahi Mahi, Dolphinfish, or Dorado. It's a good example to reflect on why there can be many names. The same fish becomes known by different common names, why? Common names come only when a group of people, to understand each other, assign a name

to a fish. Mahi Mahi, for example, comes from Hawaii and means "very strong". Dorado is based on Spanish and refers to the golden yellow color that the fish shines with under the sun. Why it's called Dolphinfish in English is not well defined and while there are several stories around this, none have been confirmed.

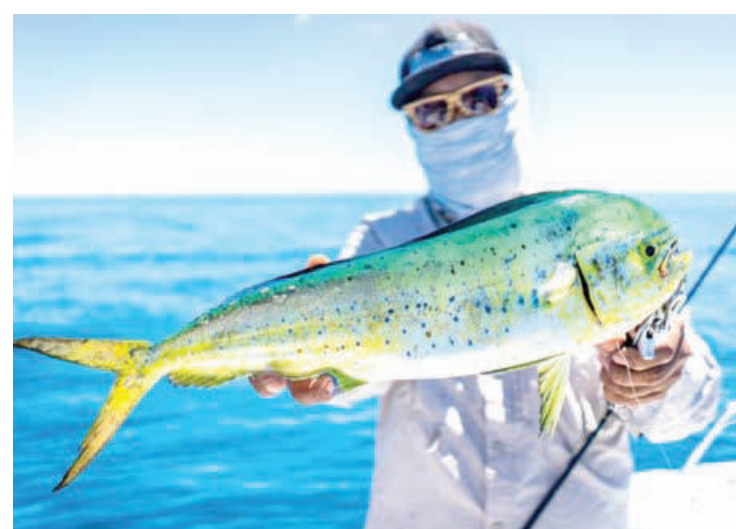
Dorado is found in all tropical to subtropical oceans around the world. Dorado is very popular both for recreational fishing and for consumption. It is known among fishermen as an exciting catch and a fish that puts up a good fight. Its meat is very good for consumption and it is also commercially fished for that reason.

They grow very fast, up to

2.7 inches (almost 7 cm) per week. They can live up to a maximum of 5 years although very few reach that age. Most become adults within 1 year but many become reproductive after just 5 or 6 months and reproduce very quickly too. They live in open water on the surface most of the time. Many fish seek them around sushi lines or floating objects on the sea. Often you will find a group landing together and if you keep a male on the line, often the others will stay close or can keep the group interested by giving shrimp or squid.

Description:

Dorado has a distinctive body. It has a large tail and its long, flat body ends in a large blunt head. Its color of yellow and green or blue



makes it immediately recognizable, even with small variations in these colors.

Dorado has clear differences between adult females and males. The male is larger and can easily reach 50 to 80 pounds and has a much flatter head compared to the female. Therefore, male Dorados

are also called "bull Dorado".

Dorado can be found in our waters around the island all year round, but there are periods when it is easier to find than others. □

Source: The Department of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries (Santa Rosa).

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Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. The honorees were respectively honored with a certificate for their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The three levels of honor are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Distinguished Visitors **Mr. Raymond and Mrs. Maria St Marie** from Ludlow, Massachusetts,

United States.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

- 50 shades of blue, beautiful clear and warm water.
- One happy island- everyone is so kind.
- Warm weather year-round with fantastic tropical breezes.
- Incredible healthy food absolutely everywhere.
- Safest place in the world.

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □

Place names in San Nicolas and their origins

(Oranjestad)—If you're ever taking a tour of Aruba, San Nicolas would definitely be on your itinerary. From relaxing on the white, sandy beaches of Baby and Roger's Beach, to exploring the prehistoric caves of Quadirikiri and Fontein, you are taking in a full view of what San Nicolas has to offer. But did you know that you are also passing through areas whose names have historical origins? Here are a few place names in San Nicolas and their origin story.

Sero Colorado

On your way to Baby or Roger's Beach, you'll pass by the famous Red Anchor at what was once the entrance to the Colony residential community and be greeted with red soiled hills by the coast. This is Sero Colorado. Named after the 30-meter, deep red, limestone hill, "Sero Colorado" translates to "Colored Hill". Sero Colorado has deep historical ties with the once-thriving phosphate industry in the area. Matter of fact, there are still underground shafts and passages deep in Sero Colorado from the time of phosphate mining. In 1958, the re-

finery at the time, Lago, adopted this name for the residential section of its employees.

Vader Piet

Another well visited area, Vader Piet is located in the Arikok National Park. Recognizable sites within this area include the Wind Mills and the Quadirikiri Cave. The origin of this name is part historical and speculation, as there are slight deviations from what actually happened.

In 1829, Pieter Lampe was a planter and the person responsible for governing this remote area. As the story goes, Pieter was well known and beloved for his kindness and good treatment of his employees, and was therefore also called Vader Piet (Father Piet). However, he was tragically murdered—some speculate at the hands of a slave. For his work and good heart, the area was named after him.

San Nicolas

Of course we can't forget San Nicolas itself. Much like Vader Piet, the origin of the name San Nicolas

has so far two different accounts. In the literal sense, "San Nicolas" translates to "Saint Nicolas", leading many to believe that this district was named after a Spanish saint. Though one account does support this with the theory that the district was named after the saint by Spanish colonizers, the other account is much less divine, but does refer to an influential figure in the area.

Nicolaas van der Biest was a suc-

cessful landowner during the time of the phosphate boom in late 19th century Aruba. Back then, landowners (most, if not all of them men) were referred to as "Shon" by their subordinates. So, the district was originally named after Shon Nicolaas. Over time, the name evolved into what is now San Nicolas. □

Source: "Aruba: Short History" by Dr. J. Hartog.



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Why Savvy Buyers Are Turning to Aruba's Ocean-View Real Estate

As American and Canadian investors reassess where to place their capital in a changing global landscape, one Caribbean destination is increasingly standing out: Aruba. Long known for its pristine beaches, political stability, and strong ties to North America, the island is now attracting a new wave of buyers who see prime, ocean-view real estate as both a lifestyle upgrade and a smart long-term investment.

A Safe, Familiar, and Accessible Market

For U.S. and Canadian buyers, Aruba offers a rare combination of comfort and opportunity. The island is politically stable, uses a well-regulated legal system for property ownership, and maintains close economic and cultural ties with North America. English is widely spoken, direct flights are plentiful from major U.S. and Canadian cities, and the island's infrastructure is modern and reliable.

Unlike many international destinations, foreigners can buy property in Aruba with full ownership rights, making it especially attractive to North American investors seeking clarity and security.

Why Ocean-View Properties Matter

In real estate, scarcity drives value—and nowhere is this truer than for prime ocean-view properties. In Aruba, beachfront and elevated ocean-view homes and condominiums represent a finite asset. There is only so much coastline, and buyers increasingly understand that location and view are the primary drivers of long-term appreciation and rental demand.

Ocean-view properties consistently outperform inland alternatives in both resale value and rental in-

come. Vacationers are willing to pay a premium for unobstructed views, proximity to the sea, and the lifestyle that comes with it. For investors, this translates into stronger occupancy rates and more resilient pricing, even during market fluctuations.

Rising Demand Fueled by Global Wealth Gains

Another key factor driving demand is the significant wealth

Supply Constraints Strengthen the Investment Case

Adding to Aruba's appeal is a recent shift in government policy. The current administration has introduced a moratorium on new condominium developments, significantly limiting future supply—especially in prime areas. While demand continues to grow, the pipeline of new inventory has been effectively constrained.



created in recent years through strong performance in global stock markets. Many high-net-worth individuals and professionals in the U.S. and Canada are now reallocating part of those gains into tangible assets—particularly real estate in desirable, lifestyle-oriented locations.

Aruba benefits directly from this trend. Buyers are not only seeking returns; they are looking for properties they can enjoy personally while preserving and growing wealth over time. A second home with an ocean view in Aruba serves both purposes, blending personal use with investment potential.

For existing property owners and new buyers alike, this is a critical point. When demand rises and supply is capped, values tend to increase. Ocean-view condos and homes already built—or currently available—stand to benefit the most from this imbalance, reinforcing the case for buying sooner rather than later.

Relative Value in the Caribbean

Despite all these advantages, Aruba remains comparatively affordable when measured against other top Caribbean destinations. Similar ocean-view or beachfront properties in markets such as the

Cayman Islands, the Bahamas, or certain parts of the Eastern Caribbean often command significantly higher price tags.

In Aruba, buyers still find high-quality construction, luxury amenities, and strong rental potential at more accessible price points. This relative affordability lowers the entry barrier while leaving room for future appreciation as the island continues to mature as an investment market.

A Market Driven by Fundamentals, Not Speculation

What truly sets Aruba apart is that its real estate market is supported by solid fundamentals: tourism demand year-round, limited land, infrastructure investment, and a growing base of international buyers. This is not a speculative boom, but a steady evolution toward a more mature, high-quality market.

For American and Canadian buyers looking to diversify beyond traditional assets, hedge against inflation, and invest in a place they genuinely enjoy, Aruba checks all the boxes.

The Bottom Line

Buying prime, ocean-view property in Aruba today is about more than owning a slice of paradise. It is about recognizing a convergence of factors—strong North American demand, increased global wealth, constrained supply, and relative affordability—that make the island one of the most compelling real estate investment destinations in the Caribbean.

For those considering where lifestyle and long-term value meet, Aruba is no longer just a vacation spot. It is a strategic investment opportunity whose window may be narrowing. □

Explore Aruba!

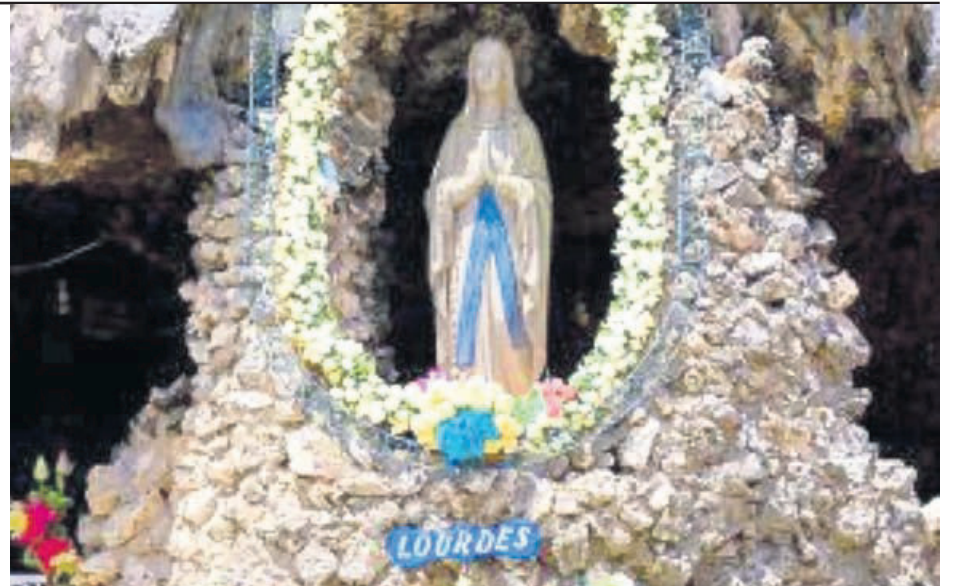
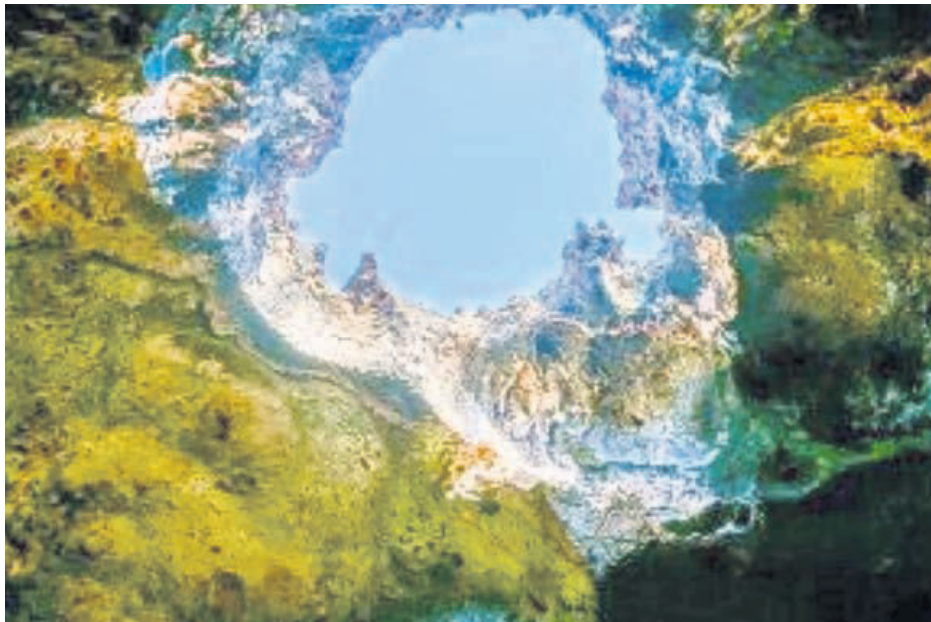
(ORANJESTAD)—Aruba Today collected some things to do BEYOND the beach. Aruba, located 15 miles north of Venezuela in the warm waters of the southern Caribbean, is home to beautiful white-sand beaches, 82-degree days, and thus ideal for the perfect beach day. But we are also blessed with some of the warmest people in the world and our island is 19.6 miles long and 6 miles across, with a total area of 70 square miles. Bit more to discover than the white stretch on the coastline we say. Let's mention some of these hidden gems.

Arikok National Park

The Arikok National park is worth the ride. We love the hikes that are guided by the park's rangers whose job is to maintain trails and protect natural resources. The flora and fauna are beautiful and the historical sites tell you about the island's



indigenous roots. If you are not up to walking, you can drive through the park, one way or another this park is a great place to spend an entire day. Cruising through the landscape you end up at some of the most stunning beaches like Dos Playa or Daimara Beach. In total, the park consists of 34 square kilometers of protected nature with a richness of animals living in it. The Aruban whiptail lizard (cododo), Aruban cat eye snake (santanero) and endangered rattle snake



(cascabel) are just some of them, you can also admire these close in the park's Visitors' Center. For more information, visit the website www.acf.aw

Natural Bridge

One of Aruba's favorite tourist attractions is the Natural Bridge. For thousands of years, pounding waves and strong winds have slowly chiseled away the limestone cliffs along Aruba's north coast to create several natural bridges. The largest of these bridges used to be the famous Natural Bridge. The bridge was a formation of coral limestone cut out by years of pounding surf, and was one of the largest of these types of spans in the world. It stood some 23 feet (7 meters) above sea level and spans more than 100 feet (30 meters). Unfortunately the bridge collapsed on September 2, 2005. Despite this, it is still the most photographed natural bridge and it remains a popular tourist attraction in Aruba, with the adjacent and intact Baby

Bridge also meriting a visit. The Natural Bridge is the perfect stop while touring Aruba. There is no admission fee or set hours for visiting. Quench your thirst with refreshing beverages & refuel your tank with local snacks.

The Lourdes Grotto

Named in commemoration of the famous French religious landmark, was created under the guidance of a priest named "Erkamp" and parishioners in the year 1958. The grotto, a shrine built into the rocks is located in Seroe Preto, just off the main road to San Nicolas. A statue of the Virgin Mary, weighing 700 kilos, was hoisted into place in the grotto. Every year, on February 11 (feast of Lady of Lourdes), a procession leaves from the St. Theresita church in San Nicolas to the grotto, where a mass is performed. The grotto is located road-side and can be visited daily. Just make sure you park safely in the event you wish to stop for pictures at this location. □

Adriaan Laclé: One of Aruba's richest men in the twentieth century

(Oranjestad)—The name Adriaan Laclé may ring a bell to locals as one of the main roads on the island, but about a century ago, Adriaan Laclé was a rich businessman, well-known

for his generosity, wealth, and taste.

Adriaan was born in 1866 and was the eldest of six children. Not much is known about his childhood upbringing or any of his earlier business ordeals, but during his hey day he often helped people get loans, was a well-established trader, and owned several plots of land. In fact, he commissioned the construction of the famous La Quinta Carmen manor—now a restaurant. Though he himself never lived in the beautiful manor, his own house also reflected his success and good taste. Today his house still stands in good condition and can be found in the back streets of main street Oranjestad.

Regarding his personal life, it has been said that he was married twice during his lifetime. He had his first daughter during his first marriage but lost his wife soon after her birth.



During his second marriage, he fathered 16 children. However, it has been said that only 11 of those 17 made it past 18 years of age. Perhaps two of his most well-known daughters are Maria Monica Laclé and Maria Veneranda Laclé, who went on to marry successful brothers Eloy Arends and Maximilian Arends, respectively. Their houses are still standing; Eloy and Maria

Monica's mansion functions as the townhall, used to host civil marriages, while Maximilian and Maria Veneranda's house stands on the opposite side of the road to them—though currently under renovation after years left in ruin. □

Source: *De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over de geschiedenis van Aruba)* by Evert Bongers.

Get to know the history of the gold industry on Aruba



(Oranjestad)— We have talked about the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruin before and its brief history during the gold industry on Aruba, but get to know a little more about the history of the “Aruban Gold Rush.”

The first hint of gold on Aruba actually dates back to 1725, when rumors about gold being found in dug up treasure chests of the Spanish colonial era prompted the first official exploration for gold on the island, commissioned by the Dutch West India Company. Under the leadership of Mr. Paulus Printz, a three-year search was conducted on Aruba, to no avail. Though they found some specks of gold, it was not enough to motivate a further search, and the assignment was discontinued by Printz himself. It wasn't until 100 years later, in 1824, when a young farmer boy named Willem Rasmijn found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep in the area of Rooi Fluit on the north coast. His father took it to a local merchant who then sold the lump for \$70. Unbeknownst to the boy and his father, they quite literally struck gold, and as word got out, a gold fever spread among the locals who started searching for more gold.

When the colonial governor in Curacao, Governor Cantz'laar, heard about the news, he sent his adjutant, Capitan van Raders, to start harvesting gold. This was in July 1824. In August of that same year, the governor followed suit to the island, accompanied by high-ranking military officials. When citizens started swarming the area in search for gold, The Netherlands sent more troops to safe guard the gold.

Prominent places where gold was found was in Daimari, Wacobana, Arikok, Rooi Fluit, Hadicouradi and later West punt, where gold ore was found. Because of a lack in advanced technology and materials to harvest the gold, the process took a more primitive approach: Clay rocks containing traces of gold were left to dry in the sun. Then, workers would start chipping the clay away on a large canvas to catch the gold particles that were left behind after the wind blew away the dust from the clay.

In the harvest period of 1824-1825, there was a total of 71,000 kilos collected through commissioned harvesting. Locals themselves reportedly found about 25 pounds worth of gold in the nearby rivers. The following years after that first big harvest, commission work fell off, and in 1828, the director of the goldmines, Johan Gravenhorst, decided to halt harvesting.

Almost 40 years later, the London-based Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. was granted concession. The firm built their gold mines on Bushiribana, and in the port of Oranjestad a long road that connected the gold mill to the port. The ores themselves came from Sero Plat en Sero Cristal.

By this point, workers were still using primitive methods to harvest the ores. For example, when someone had to go into the mines, there were no stairs or lifts; the person had to be brought down in a big bucket, with two or more workers holding the bucket by a thick rope above ground. Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. reportedly operated until 1899, and right after the Aruba Gold Concession Ltd. was established, coincidentally also based in London. This time, the gold mill in Balashi was built, and more mines were dug up all around the island. The gold ores that were found were transported via track engine, locally called the “trekinchi”. Despite being more equipped for the job, the Aruba Gold Concession Ltd. could not produce any real profit, and so the concession was terminated just eight years later, in 1908.

A local firm, the “Aruba Goud Maatschappij” (Aruba Gold Company) took over the concession, along with all the materials and equipment. In the beginning, the company saw good profit, and for a while, the island's economy depended primarily on the mining and harvesting of gold. But just like its predecessors, the streak of luck for the Aruba Gold Company came to an end when WWI broke out.

The main reason why production stopped this time was reportedly because of a lack in dynamite for extracting the ores from the mines, as well as a lack in raw materials like German cyanide for the refining process. By the time the war ended, the equipment that was left at Balashi were too old to use again. After the war, gold production on the Aruba was left to a standstill.

According to an issue in Aruba Esso News paper in 1953, Henny Eman wanted to start up digging again, this time using independent miners. He argued that there was proof of more gold to be discovered. Plus, hiring independent miners would boost the island's employment rate.

When it was proven that gold was in fact still present, the executive board on the island promised to fund the project only if the gold dug up proved to be valuable. However, nothing else was reported after this, so it could be concluded that there was no real profitable market on the island anymore.

The ruins of the Bushiribana and Balashi Gold Mills are still standing, and open for the public to visit. These structures offer a glance into the past, to a time where Aruba experienced one of its first wave of industrialization. Today, these structures are persevered as historical monuments. □

Source:

1. “De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over the geschiedenis van Aruba)” by Evert Bongers.
2. Aruba Esso News, 1953 issue.

CROSSWORD

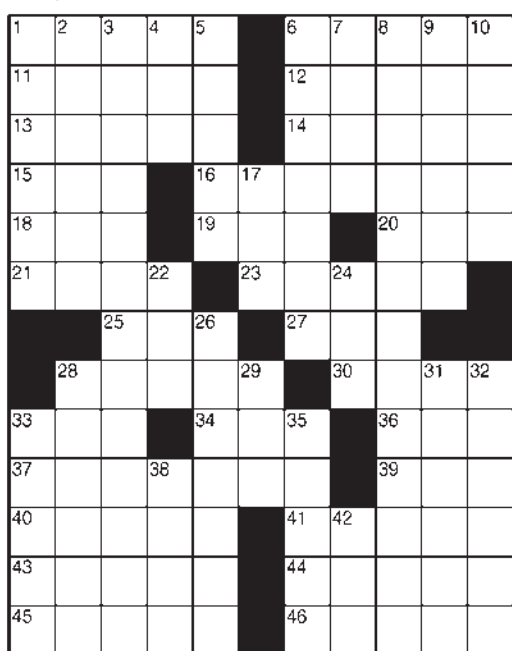
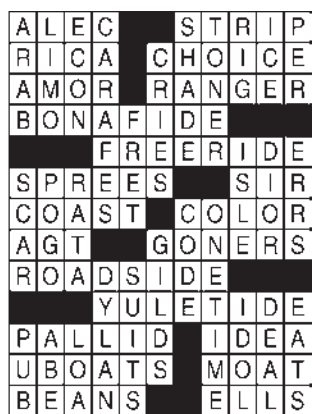
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 40 Ties down
1 Cellist Casals
6 Steel rod in concrete
11 Dined at home
12 "Skyfall" singer
13 First odd prime
14 Radials, e.g.
15 Singer Waits
16 Try
18 Aussie bird
19 Rap's — Nas X
20 High times
21 Cincinnati team
23 Salon request
25 Phone download
27 1949 film noir classic
28 Takes to the sky
30 Capital on a fjord
33 Decimal base
34 Alias letters
36 Crone
37 Mono-gram unit
39 Owned by us

DOWN

- 1 Glib talk
2 Not out
3 Bulbs for cooks
4 Fiction
5 "Love Story" actor
6 Upset
7 TV's Falco
8 Summer wear
9 City of Syria
10 Takes a breather
17 Pewter component
22 Massage setting
24 Court
26 Com-mends
28 Lady of Spain
29 Reggae forerunner
31 Hugh of "House"
32 Fiona, for one
33 Oven feature
35 Church sight
38 Stumble
42 Lennon's love



2-10

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

2-10

CRYPTOQUOTE

OGX THQX RX WNQX ZRZM

NK OGX HUTM THQX RX LXXJ.

— XTDXAO GFDDZAE

Cryptoquote: IF YOU DO NOT LOVE ME I SHALL NOT BE LOVED! IF I DO NOT LOVE YOU I SHALL NOT LOVE. — SAMUEL BECKETT

Cruise ship Schedule: Jan. 28 - 31 2026

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
WED	28	CELEBRITY SILHOUETTE	08.00	23.00	B	1
		NORWEGIAN SKY	11.00	20.00	C	1
		CARNIVAL VISTA	13.00	23.00	I	1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
THU	29	COSTA PACIFICA	07.00	22.00	B	1
		AIDASOL	08.00	18.00	C	1
		NORWEGIAN DAWN	11.00	20.00	I	1
FRI	30	MS RENAISSANCE	09.00	18.00	B	1
		EXPLORA II	09.00	22.00	C	1
SAT	31	SILVER SHADOW	08.00	****	B	1
		AIDAPERLA	09.00	21.00	C	1
		CARIBBEAN PRINCESS	09.00	22.00	I	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.



Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.



Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.



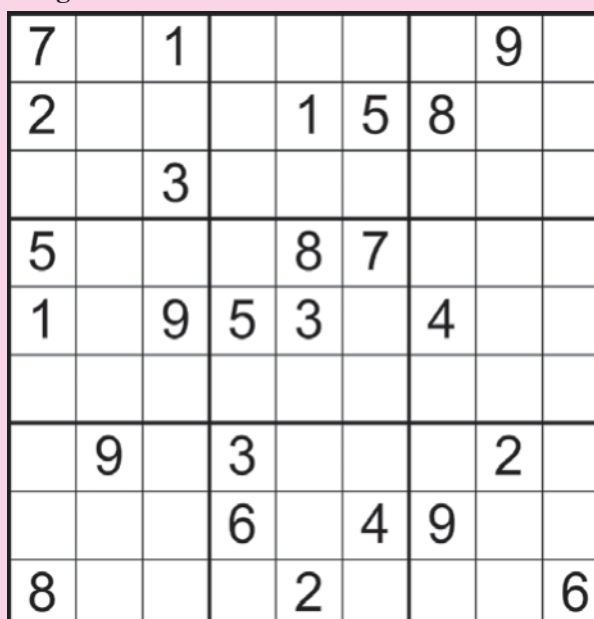
Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku



Difficulty: ★★★★★

1/31

Answer to previous puzzle

3	9	4	5	7	1	6	2	8
7	2	6	9	3	8	5	1	4
8	5	1	2	6	4	3	7	9
5	3	9	1	2	7	8	4	6
6	8	7	3	4	5	1	9	2
1	4	2	6	8	9	7	5	3
4	1	3	8	5	2	9	6	7
2	6	5	7	9	3	4	8	1
9	7	8	4	1	6	2	3	5

Difficulty: ★★★★★

1/30

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World creeps closer to eradicating human Guinea worm cases, with just 10 last year: Carter Center

By **BILL BARROW**
Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — There were only 10 reported cases of Guinea worm infections confined to three countries in 2025, a historic low announced Friday by The Carter Center.

The new mark comes barely a year after the death of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, who often said he hoped to outlive the Guinea worm. When the former president's center launched an eradication program in the mid-1980s, the parasite still afflicted millions of people in developing countries.

"We think about President Carter's legacy" and his push to get to zero cases, said Adam Weiss, director of the center's Guinea worm eradication program, in an interview. "These might not be seen as the number one problems in the world, but they are the number one problems for people that suffer from these diseases. So we continue to charge ourselves with his mission of alleviating as much pain and suffering as we can."

In 2025, four human cases were reported in Chad, four in Ethiopia and two in South Sudan. Animal infections still number in the hundreds, declining in some countries but up slightly overall and making it harder to predict when Guinea worm might be eradicated.

The 10 human cases mark a 33% decline from 15 cases reported in 2024. Angola, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, and Mali reported zero human cases for the second consecutive year.

Guinea worm would join smallpox as only the two human diseases to be eradicated.

The worm is contracted by consuming water that contains larvae. It then grows inside an infected person, reaching as much as a meter long and the diameter of spaghetti. The



Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter poses for photographers with a water pipe filter, that is used to combat guinea worm disease, during a news conference to mark the launch of a campaign to eradicate the disease in central London, Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2011.

Associated Press

worm then exits the person's body through a blister, which causes intense pain. Infections can spread when those who suffer from the condition sometimes immerse themselves in water to ease symptoms allowing the worm to deposit larvae that can be consumed by others. The same cycle can happen through land animal infections when they come to the water source. Humans also can be infected by consuming fish or amphibious creatures that have consumed larvae.

The Carter Center's eradication program has worked alongside govern-

ment health ministries and other organizations for decades to educate the public, train volunteers and distribute water filters in affected areas.

There is no treatment for Guinea worm, though infected people can take pain medication.

Weiss said the eradication program's next step is developing diagnostic tests, especially for animals. Testing long before an infected person or animal becomes symptomatic would allow behavioral changes to minimize or eliminate the chances of them allowing more larvae to enter a wa-

ter source.

The Carter Center said Chad reported 147 animal infections in 2025, a 47% drop for what was once the global epicenter of animal infections. Cameroon reported 445, while Angola reported 70, Mali 17, South Sudan three and Ethiopia one.

Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, traveled extensively across the affected countries with Carter Center staff who worked with the World Health Organization, national health ministries and local officials to build the coordinated eradication effort.

Weiss said the President Donald Trump's decision to leave the WHO and pull back funding and U.S. involvement from a range of international aid efforts has forced some logistical changes to the center's work on Guinea worm and in other areas. □



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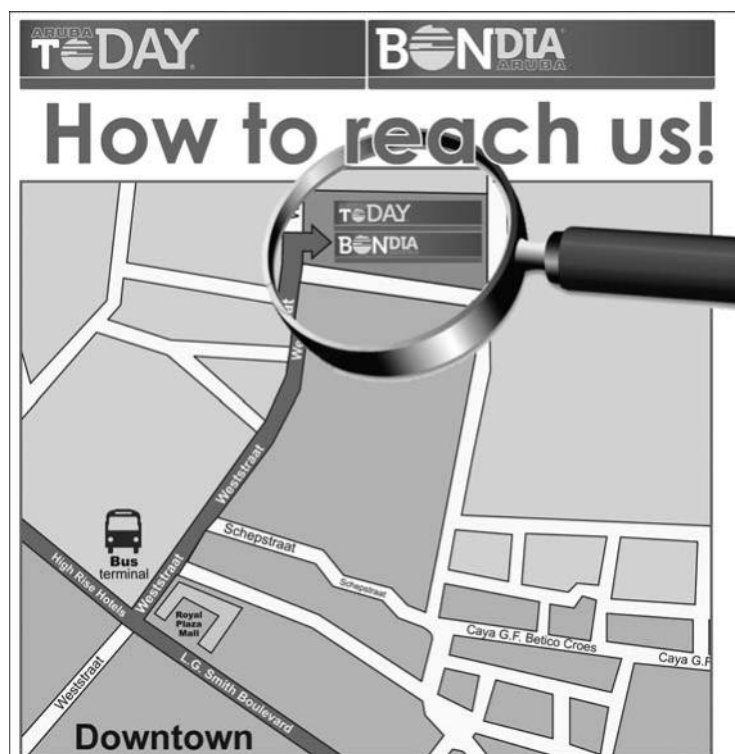
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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

The trade deadline is less than a week away. And all NBA eyes are on Giannis and the Bucks

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP Basketball Writer

As the NBA trade deadline loomed last year, a star player reacted to the blockbuster trade that sent Luka Doncic to the Los Angeles Lakers and Anthony Davis to the Dallas Mavericks by saying the following: "It's a business. You have to understand this. Nobody's safe. Nobody's safe."

The player who said those words: Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo.

This season's deadline is fast approaching, now less than a week away, and it's Antetokounmpo who is the epicenter of the NBA trade universe this time. Speculation about his future will the Bucks trade him or not? will continue until he either gets moved or until the deadline hits Thursday afternoon. And if he doesn't get moved now, the rumors will almost certainly resume in June around the draft and the start of free agency.

Going into Friday, there was just one trade of note this season: Atlanta moving Trae Young to Washington earlier this month. There has been an average of 13 deals around the trade deadline every year for the last decade, so it certainly seems like teams are waiting to see how the Ante-



Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo (34) tries to get past Denver Nuggets' Spencer Jones during the second half of an NBA basketball game Friday, Jan. 23, 2026, in Milwaukee.

Associated Press

tokounmpo domino falls if it happens at all before figuring out what they want to do.

"I think there's a lot of dialogue going on around the league," Golden State general manager Mike Dunleavy Jr. said last week. "We talk to all these teams, everybody's talking to each other, feeling each other out."

Everything starts with Antetokounmpo, and it doesn't take much to set the rumor mill into overdrive. A photo

probably a decade or so old was posted on Facebook this week, purportedly on Antetokounmpo's mother's page. It's of three people, including the Bucks star, standing on the side of the court that the Miami Heat call home.

Maybe it meant nothing. Maybe it meant everything. It did get a whole lot of people talking. Such is NBA life at trade deadline time, and nobody is sure how to deal with the craze this time of year.

"I don't know the answer,"

Bucks coach Doc Rivers said Thursday when asked about how to handle the noise. "I've never known that answer. Every year, it's a different thing. It's so much tougher now. I've said that many times. When we played ... you had to go and buy the paper to read the paper."

Is he obsessing over the thought of losing Antetokounmpo?

"Why think about something that hasn't happened and probably won't happen?" Rivers asked.

This much is certain: All 30 NBA teams have taken and made calls in the last few days and will continue doing so for the next few days, all to see what the market is and how everyone can improve their chances of winning now or improve their odds of contending in a couple years.

The Warriors are probably among the teams who want Antetokounmpo the most. Miami would be another. New York, too. Everybody Milwaukee included surely wants him on the roster, though most teams frankly don't have much of a shot.

It's a fun time of year, except for those who have to get asked about rumors every few hours.

"We don't really give it any time," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said, speaking generally about trade rumors and not any specific one.

"The veteran players, they understand that so much of it is just conjecture. It's just a bunch of BS. But it is part of our business. That's what we all sign up for."

The fact that teams have interest in Antetokounmpo is obviously no surprise; he remains one of the best players in the world. □

Vikings fire general manager Kwesi Adofo-Mensah after 4 seasons and contract extension last year



Minnesota Vikings general manager Kwesi Adofo-Mensah watches his team prepare before the start of a preseason NFL football game against the New England Patriots Saturday, Aug. 16, 2025, in Minneapolis.

Associated Press

By **DAVE CAMPBELL**
AP Pro Football Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The Minnesota Vikings fired general manager Kwesi Adofo-Mensah on Friday, after mixed results over four seasons and giving him a contract extension last year.

The Vikings announced that they have appointed executive vice president of football operations Rob Brzezinski as the interim replacement through the NFL draft, after which a search will be conducted for a new general manager.

The timing of the decision was unusual nearly four weeks after the regular season ended, but Vikings owners Zygi Wilf and Mark Wilf said in a joint statement distributed by the club that they came to the conclusion following their annual end-of-season organizational meetings. The

Vikings finished 9-8 and missed the playoffs for a second time in Adofo-Mensah's four years. They didn't win a postseason game.

"After careful consideration, we have decided it is in the best interest of the team to move forward with new leadership of our football operations. These decisions are never easy. We are grateful for Kwesi's contributions and commitment to the organization over the past four years and wish him and his family the best in the future," the Wilfs said.

Brzezinski has been a key executive in the front office since 1999, becoming one of the league's most respected salary cap managers. "Rob brings tremendous credibility and experience, understands our roster and has the ability to build consensus and rely on the expertise of our personnel and coaches," the Wilfs said. □

Patrick Kane passes Mike Modano for the most NHL points by a U.S.-born player

By **LARRY LAGE** and **STEPHEN WHYNO**
AP Hockey Writers

DETROIT (AP) — Patrick Kane smiled. The wait was over. Kane became the highest-scoring United States-born player in NHL history, passing Mike Modano with an assist for his 1,375th point on Thursday night for the Detroit Red Wings against the Washington Capitals. "It's nice to have it over with in some ways and worry about the rest of the season," Kane said after Washington's 4-3 shootout win. Kane passed the puck from the boards to Alex DeBrincat in the left circle, and DeBrincat set up Ben Chiarot for a tying goal from the point midway through the second period. Kane flashed a grin and hugged Chiarot.

He was surrounded by teammates, including those who emptied the bench to join a brief celebration. As Kane skated away, the spotlight was put on him and he raised his stick to acknowledge the crowd while appearing to be on the verge of tears. His likeness was shown on the videoboards at Little Caesars Arena with an American flag in the background and the number



Detroit Red Wings right wing Patrick Kane (88) is surrounded by teammates after recording his 1,375th point to pass Mike Modano and break the NHL record for points by a player born in the United States, during the second period of an NHL hockey game Thursday, Jan. 29, 2026, in Detroit.
Associated Press

1,375.

Modano held the mark for 18-plus years. Kane reached the milestone a couple of months after turning 37, while Modano was 40 when he scored a goal to register point No. 1,374, passing Phil Housley.

"I knew at an early age in your career you would be the one chasing this number down and here we

are," Modano said in a pre-recorded message played on the videoboards. "Continue on and make this number harder for the next guy."

Kane has been one of the faces of American hockey since getting taken with the first pick in the 2007 draft by Chicago. He helped the Blackhawks win the Stanley Cup three times from 2010-15 as a co-headliner of one

of the most successful runs since the league's salary cap era began in '05.

"When you think of USA Hockey, he's one of the first players that comes to mind, if not the first player," fellow American Jack Eichel said. "Such a great representation of USA Hockey and us Americans something for a lot of the guys that came after him to strive to be, myself included." U.S.-

born defenseman Charlie McAvoy recalled watching Kane on those long runs "do stuff that at the time people didn't do."

"His type of player just transcends now, when back then there wasn't anybody that was really doing that," U.S.-born defenseman Charlie McAvoy said. "He changed the game of hockey. He's an absolute legend. And it's great that he's an American."

Earlier this month, Kane became the 50th player and fifth American to score 500 goals, following Keith Tkachuk, Jeremy Roenick and Joe Mullen. Brett Hull, a dual citizen who was born in Canada and played internationally for the U.S., had 741 goals and 1,391 points.

"He's well on his way to being the best USA player of all time," countryman Jack Hughes said. Kane won the Calder Trophy as rookie of the year in '07-08, the Conn Smythe Trophy as playoff MVP in 2013 and the Hart Trophy as regular-season MVP in 2015-16, when he also led the league in scoring. "Such an iconic player, just played with such passion," said Tage Thompson, who's a first-time U.S. Olympian this year. □

Olympic bobsled, skeleton and luge athletes file appeals for spots at Milan Cortina Games

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP Sports Writer

U.S. Olympic bobsledder Kris Horn is asking that sport's governing body to grant him a spot in the two-man race at the Milan Cortina Games, while Irish luge athlete Elsa Desmond and U.S. skeleton racer Katie Uhlaender now have their Olympic hopes pending before sport's highest court.

The appeal on Horn's behalf was being prepared Friday, while the Court of Arbitration for Sport which is often called upon to decide Olympic-related sport disputes acknowledged

that same day that the Irish Luge Federation and Uhlaender had filed appeals to them as well.

Horn qualified for the Olympic four-man bobsled event pilot and is asking the International Bobsled and Skeleton Federation to let him race in two-man as well. He completed only four two-man races this season, one short of the minimum required for Olympic eligibility. But the typical World Cup season has at least eight races, while this season's two-man World Cup slate had only seven.

The U.S. is eligible to have

two sleds in the two-man Olympic race. Luge appeal

Ireland's filing with CAS is against the International Luge Federation, saying that Desmond an Olympian in 2022 was "unlawfully deprived ... of a qualifying place for the 2026 OWG by failing to allocate a remaining qualification place and unlawfully allocating qualification places to athletes granted Individual Neutral Athlete (AIN) status."

Desmond would have been the next to qualify for the 25-woman singles

luge field for the Olympics, a race that includes a Rus-

sian who was given the neutral status. □



Kaillie Armbruster Humphries and Jasmine Jones of the United States race down the track during the women's two-man bobsleigh competition, 1st run, in Altenberg, Germany, Sunday Jan. 18, 2026.

Associated Press

History-chasing Djokovic and Alcaraz to meet in Australian Open final after epic wins

By JOHN PYE

AP Sports Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— Novak Djokovic finally beat one of the two men who've been blocking his path to an unprecedented 25th Grand Slam singles title when he edged Jannik Sinner in five sets to reach the Australian Open final Friday. To get that coveted No. 25, he'll have to beat the other: Top-ranked Carlos Alcaraz. They're both chasing history in Sunday's championship decider, with Alcaraz striving to become the youngest man at 22 ever to complete a career Grand Slam. "There's always, for me, also for Carlos because of his age and everything he's achieved, history is on the line for both of us," Djokovic told reporters packed into a small room deep inside the stadium in a brief interview approaching 3 a.m. "Finals of a Grand Slam. There's a lot at stake."

The top-ranked Alcaraz came through his own grueling five-setter. He overcame cramps and a sore right leg to fend off No. 3 Alexander Zverev 6-4, 7-6 (5), 6-7 (3), 6-7 (4), 7-5 in a match that started in the warmth of the afternoon and, 5 hours, 27 minutes later, became the longest semifinal ever at the Australian Open. That pushed the scheduled



Novak Djokovic of Serbia celebrates after defeating Jannik Sinner of Italy in their semifinal match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, early Saturday, Jan. 31, 2026. Associated Press

start of the Sinner-Djokovic semifinal back a couple of hours, and the 38-year-old Djokovic finally won 3-6, 6-3, 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 just after 1:30 a.m.

"It feels surreal," Djokovic said of his 4-hour, 9-minute triumph. "Honestly, it feels like winning already tonight. I know I have to come back ... and fight the No. 1 of the world. I just hope that I'll have enough gas to stay toe-to-toe with him."

"For me, this is a win that almost equals winning a Grand Slam."

Djokovic conceded he was lucky to even get to the semifinals. He narrowly missed hitting a ball girl with a reckless swipe in the third round to be almost defaulted from the tournament, got a walkover in the fourth round, and felt he was heading home in the quarterfinals when he trailed Lorenzo Musetti by two sets until the Italian retired with an injured right leg.

Djokovic hadn't won a set since the third round but against Sinner, the two-time defending champion, Djokovic was at the peak

of his attacking and defensive powers. He fended off 16 of the 18 breakpoints he faced and stifled Sinner's opportunities. It ended a run of five losses to Sinner, and a run of four semifinal exits for Djokovic at the majors.

"Had many chances, couldn't use them, and that's the outcome," Sinner said. "Yeah, it hurts, for sure." Alcaraz and Sinner have split the last eight major titles between them since Djokovic won his last title at the 2023 U.S. Open.

But nobody knows how to win more often at Melbourne Park than Djokovic. He has won all 10 times he's contested the Australian Open final. He has been saying for months that Alcaraz and Sinner have been playing at a higher level than everyone else. He also said he never doubted he could rise to that level. "I never stopped doubting. I never stopped believing in myself," he said. "There's a lot of people that doubted me ... a lot of experts all of a sudden that wanted to retire me."

"I want to thank them all because they gave me strength. They gave me motivation to prove them wrong, which I have to-night."

Final 4

The top four seeds reached the men's semifinals for just the fifth time and Day 13 was destined to produce some much-needed drama.

The season-opening major had been a relatively slow burn until the back-to-back five-setters lasting a combined 9 hours, 36 minutes.

Alcaraz and Zverev, the 2025 runner-up, surpassed the 2009 classic between Rafael Nadal and Fernando Verdasco as the longest ever Australian Open semifinal. □



New England Patriots quarterback Drake Maye watches teammates during an NFL football availability, Thursday, Jan. 29, 2026, in Foxborough, Mass. Associated Press

Patriots QB Drake Maye misses practice with illness, the latest hiccup to Super Bowl preparations

By KYLE HIGHTOWER

AP Sports Writer

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)

— New England Patriots quarterback Drake Maye is dealing with an illness and did not practice on Friday, the latest wrinkle in the quarterback's preparations for the Super Bowl matchup with the Seattle Seahawks.

Coach Mike Vrabel confirmed Maye sat out after he was not spotted during the limited period at the beginning of workouts

that is open to reporters. It came a day after Maye was a limited participant in practice with a shoulder injury. Vrabel said both issues kept of him off the field Friday.

Maye was at the team facility, however, and able to participate in team meetings. The coach said Maye responded "favorable" after Thursday's practice in which he did some throwing and would have practiced Friday if not for the

illness.

Vrabel reiterated that he isn't concerned about Maye's availability going forward.

"Nope. We've had a lot of guys over the last month or six weeks with illness," Vrabel said.

"Again, trying to do what's best for the player and the team. And try to take care of guys (and) don't spread things. But we've worked with this here for the past six weeks."

Friday was the team's final practice in Massachusetts before heading to Santa Clara, California, for the start of Super Bowl week.

Maye said Thursday that his focus was on being ready to go in time for the Super Bowl.

"I'm feeling good and looking forward to being ready to go," Maye said. "This is the game you dream of playing, so looking forward to getting out there and playing in the Super Bowl." □